

423 tribe's ownership and supremacy over the area. And so we see, for
 619 instance, that the Orlams when they penetrated north of the Orange
 648 River found the indigenous Nama tribes tolerating their presence
 only on condition that they recognized the jurisdiction of the chief in
 whose territory they settled, and that as an outward mark of submission
 they paid him an annual tribute of cattle or horses in return for the
 right to live and graze their herds on his lands. The effect of this
 [21] restriction may easily be imagined. No sooner had the newcomers
 settled down and become accustomed to their surroundings than they
 refused to pay any further tribute. In the inevitable wars that followed
 the Nama were no match for their better armed and more experienced
 adversaries. Before very many years had passed the order of things
 was reversed, and the Orlams were dominant, while almost all the
 indigenous tribes either were absorbed or retained their lands on the
 same terms of tribute and vassalage as they had formerly exacted.¹

619 How jealous was the regard for boundary and territorial rights in
 423 these days may be seen from the following incident. In 1889 the
 //Hobosen chief Hendrik Witbooi rather went out of his way while
 • 416 travelling from Keetmanshoop to Gibeon, and passed with his men
 over a corner of the lands claimed by the Bonderswarts of Warmbad.
 Whereupon Willem Christian, the Bonderswart chief, wrote him a
 strong letter of protest. "Such circumstances," says Willem, "are
 likely to cause dissatisfaction"; and if the "dear captain" required
 anything in his area it was only right first to apply for permission to
 enter, and to await the reply before doing anything. This would have
 avoided "misunderstandings"; "for it is beyond my comprehension
 that one chief should enter another chief's area without notifying
 him and making a request."²

619 On the whole, therefore, it would seem that although every
 423 Hottentot tribe had a claim, established by long exploitation, over a
 certain stretch of land, other tribes might seek and obtain permission
 not only to pass through this territory, but even to make use of its
 water and pastures, on condition that the prior rights of the resident
 tribe were recognized and acknowledged. Permission might, of course,
 be refused, and sometimes was, when war would probably result if
 encroachment nevertheless took place. But the extensive wanderings
 of the different Cape Hottentot tribes in the early days of the Dutch
 settlement imply that here, at least, little objection was raised as a

¹ *Report on the Nations of S.W.A.* (Cd. 9146), 70, 77-8; Hamild, op. cit., 4.

² *Report on the Nations of S.W.A.*, 76.